

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

**[0032]** A layer three enabled layer two network includes a multi service platform. The platform includes a layer two switching component and a layer three switching component and has a physical loopback connected between the layer two switching component and the layer three switching component. The layer two switching component is a terminating point for connections of the layer two network, enabling end-to-end layer two connections. The physical loopback enables the layer three features while increasing reliability of end-to-end connections across the network, and simplifying provisioning of layer three enabled layer two networks.